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(54) **SAMPLING CIRCUIT AND SAMPLING METHOD**

(71) Applicant: **REALTEK SEMICONDUCTOR CORPORATION**, Hsinchu (TW)

(72) Inventors: **Ming-Cheng Chiang**, Hsinchu (TW);
Li-Lung Kao, Hsinchu (TW)

(73) Assignee: **REALTEK SEMICONDUCTOR CORPORATION**, Hsinchu (TW)

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G11C 27/00 (2006.01)
G11C 27/02 (2006.01)

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(58) **Field of Classification Search**

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USPC 327/434, 427, 437, 94, 333, 390, 589
See application file for complete search history.

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Primary Examiner — Lincoln Donovan

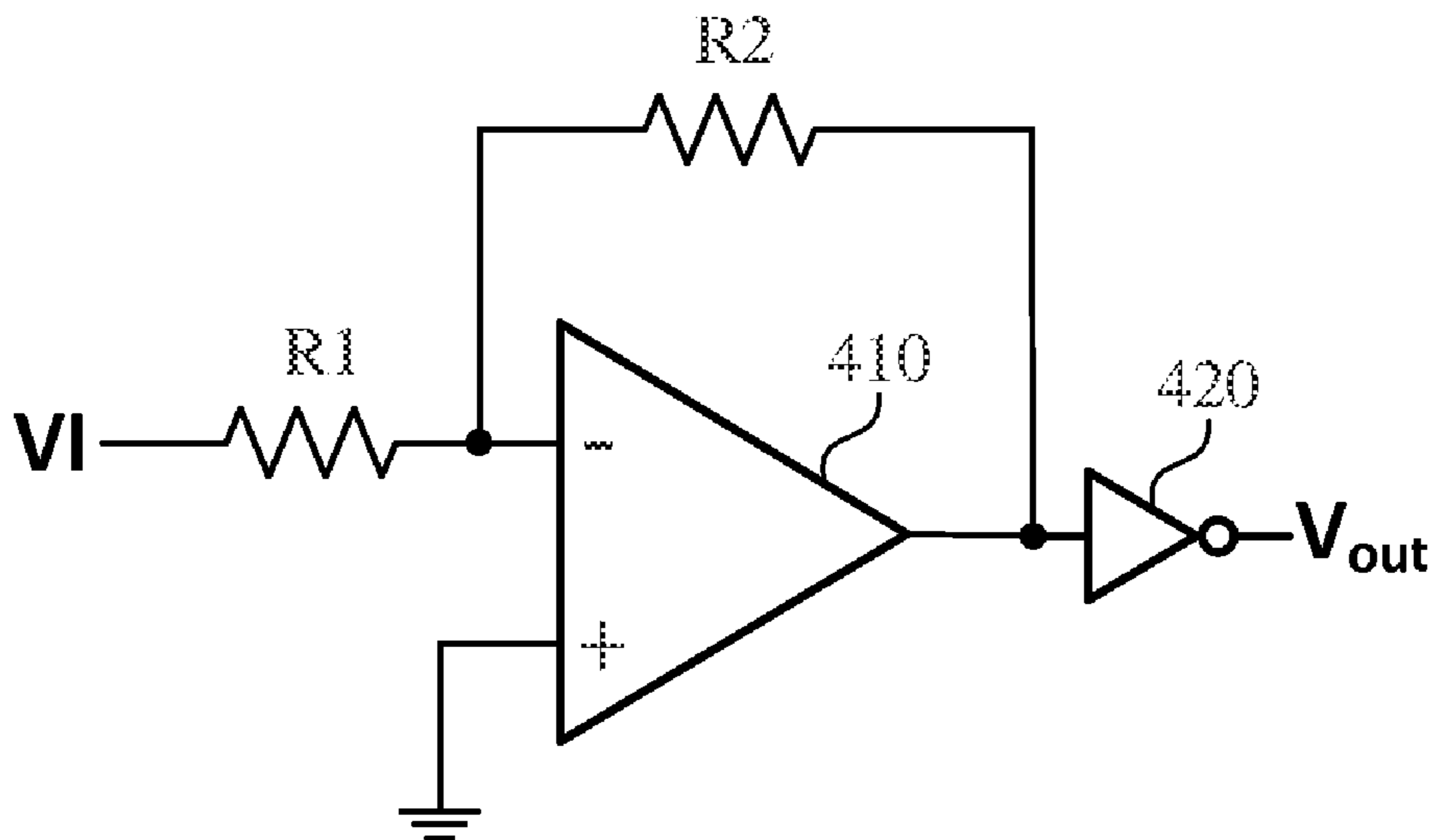
Assistant Examiner — Thomas Skibinski

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — WPAT, P.C., Intellectual Property Attorneys; Anthony King

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A sampling circuit for sampling an input voltage and generating an output voltage, comprising six switches, a capacitor and a voltage buffer. The first switch has a control terminal and makes the output voltage equal to the input voltage when switching on. The second switch is coupled to a first terminal of the capacitor and a first level. The third switch is coupled to a second terminal of the capacitor and a second level. The fourth switch is coupled to the first terminal of the capacitor and the control terminal. The fifth switch is coupled to the control terminal and the second level. The voltage buffer has large input impedance, and has an input receiving the input voltage, an output providing a voltage equal or close to the input voltage. The sixth switch is coupled to the second terminal of the capacitor and the output of the voltage buffer.

6 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets



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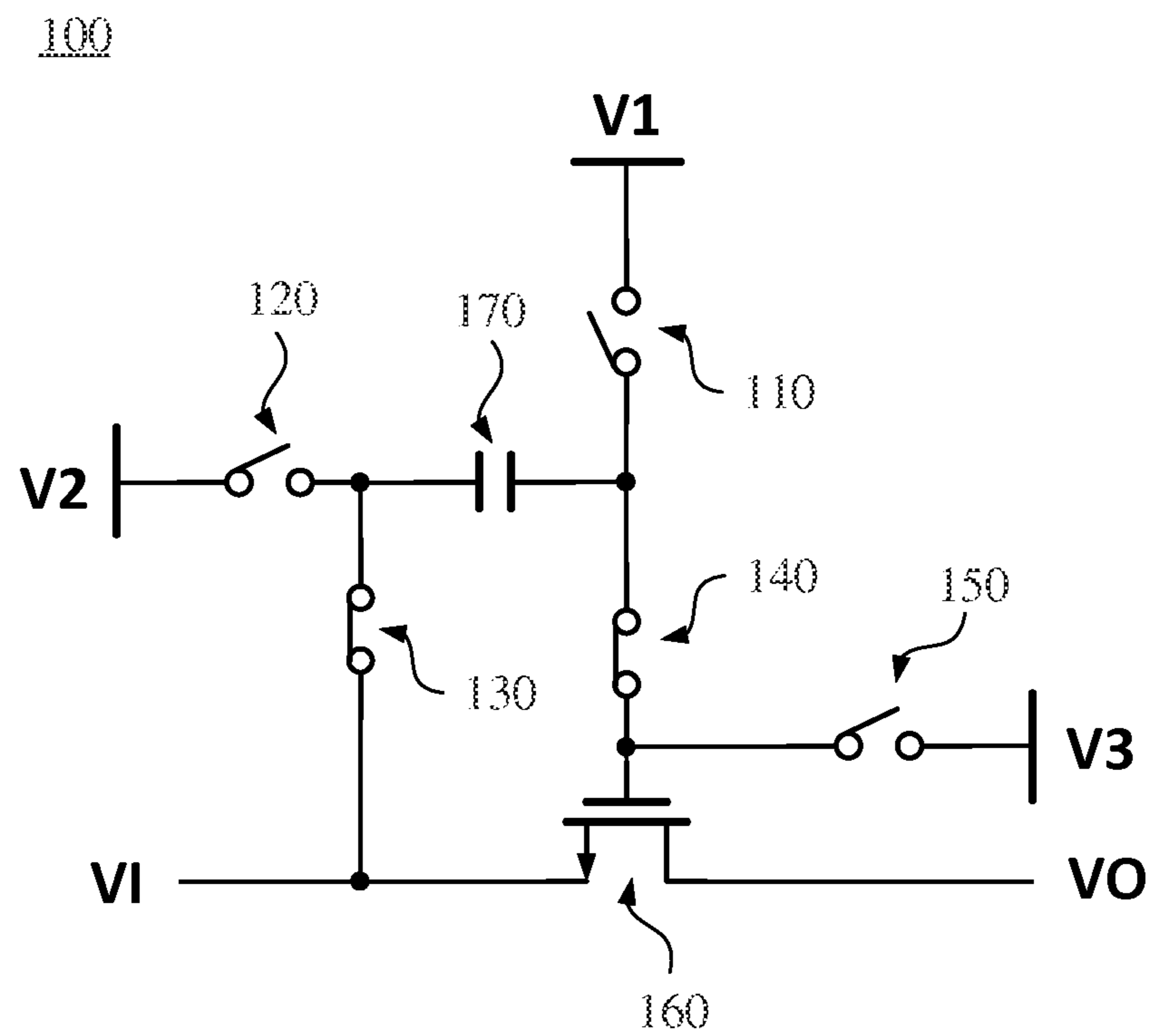


Fig. 1 (prior art)

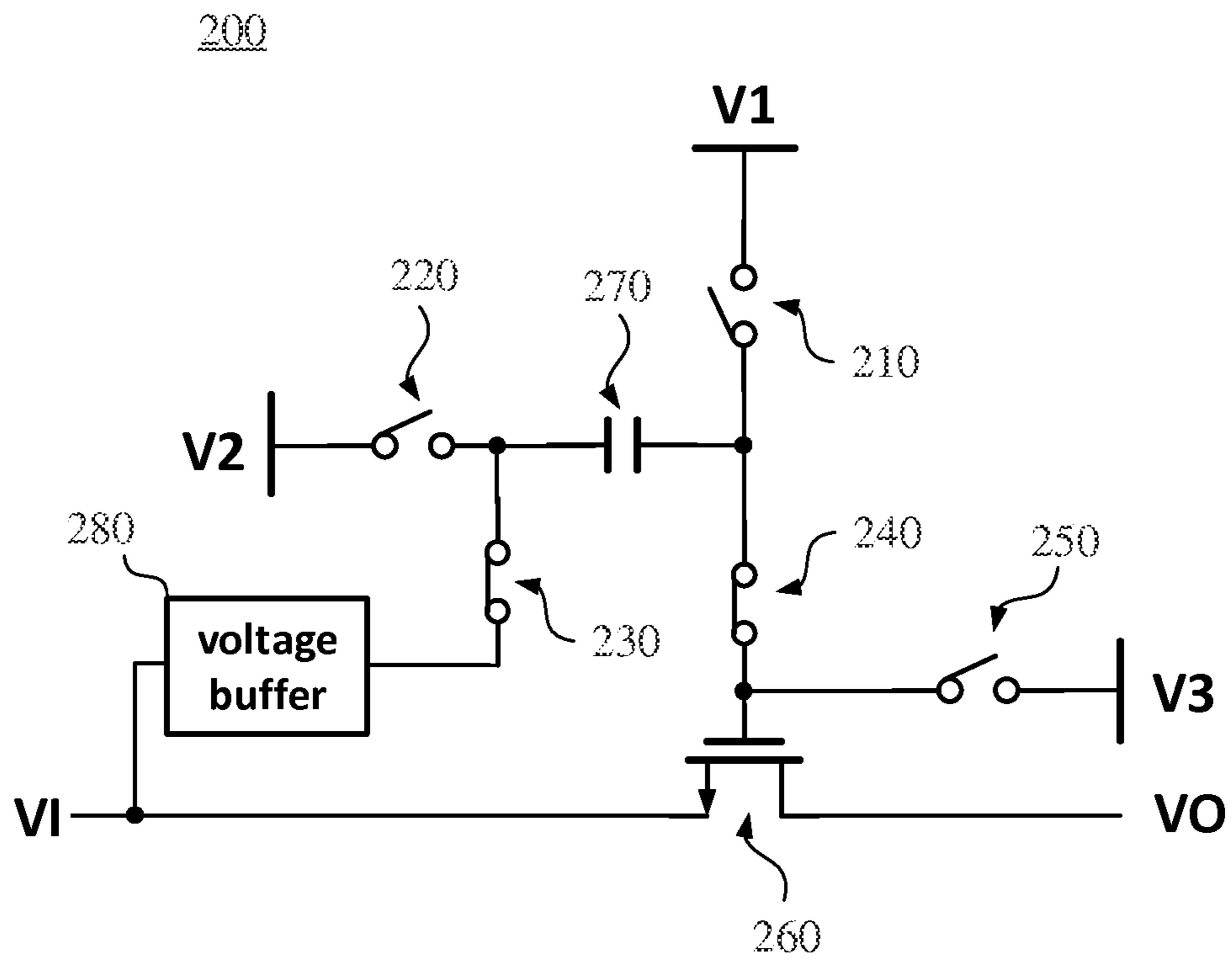


Fig. 2

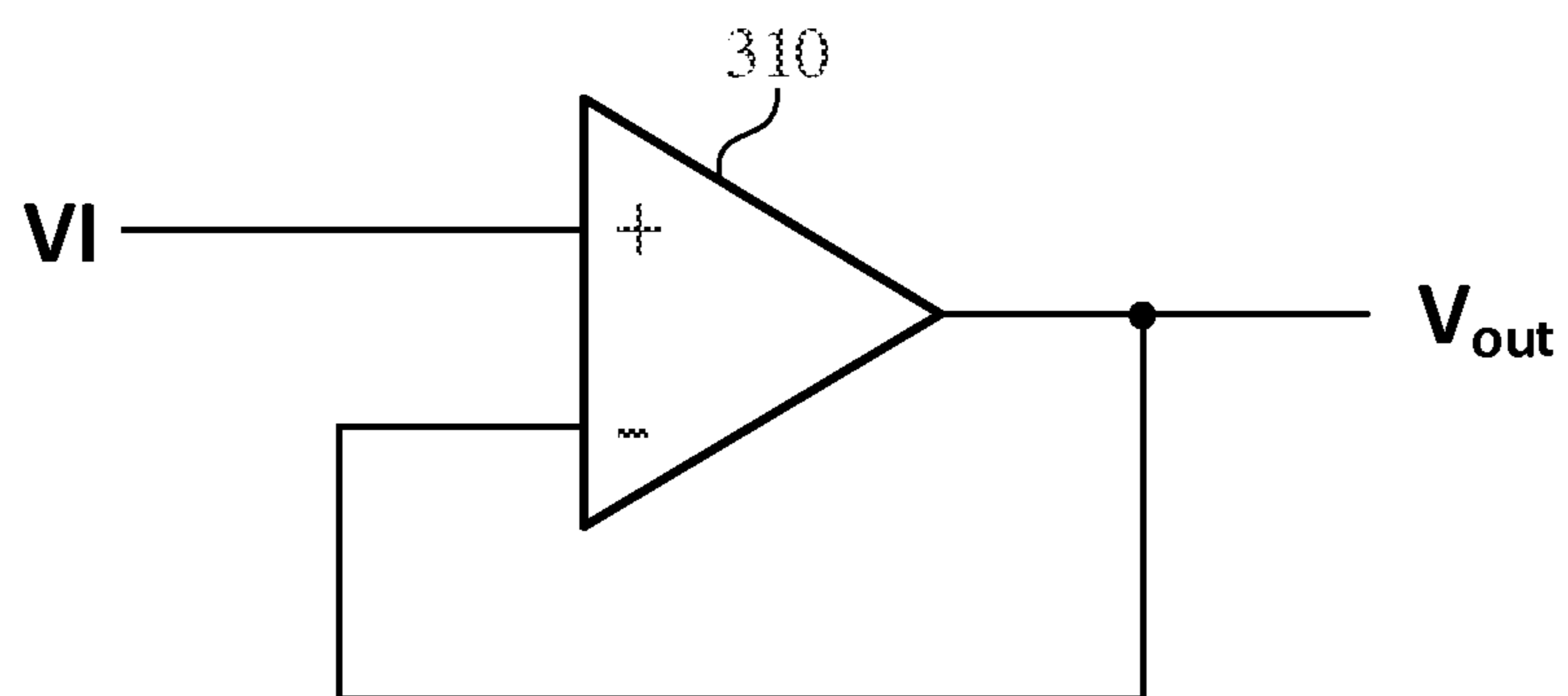


Fig. 3

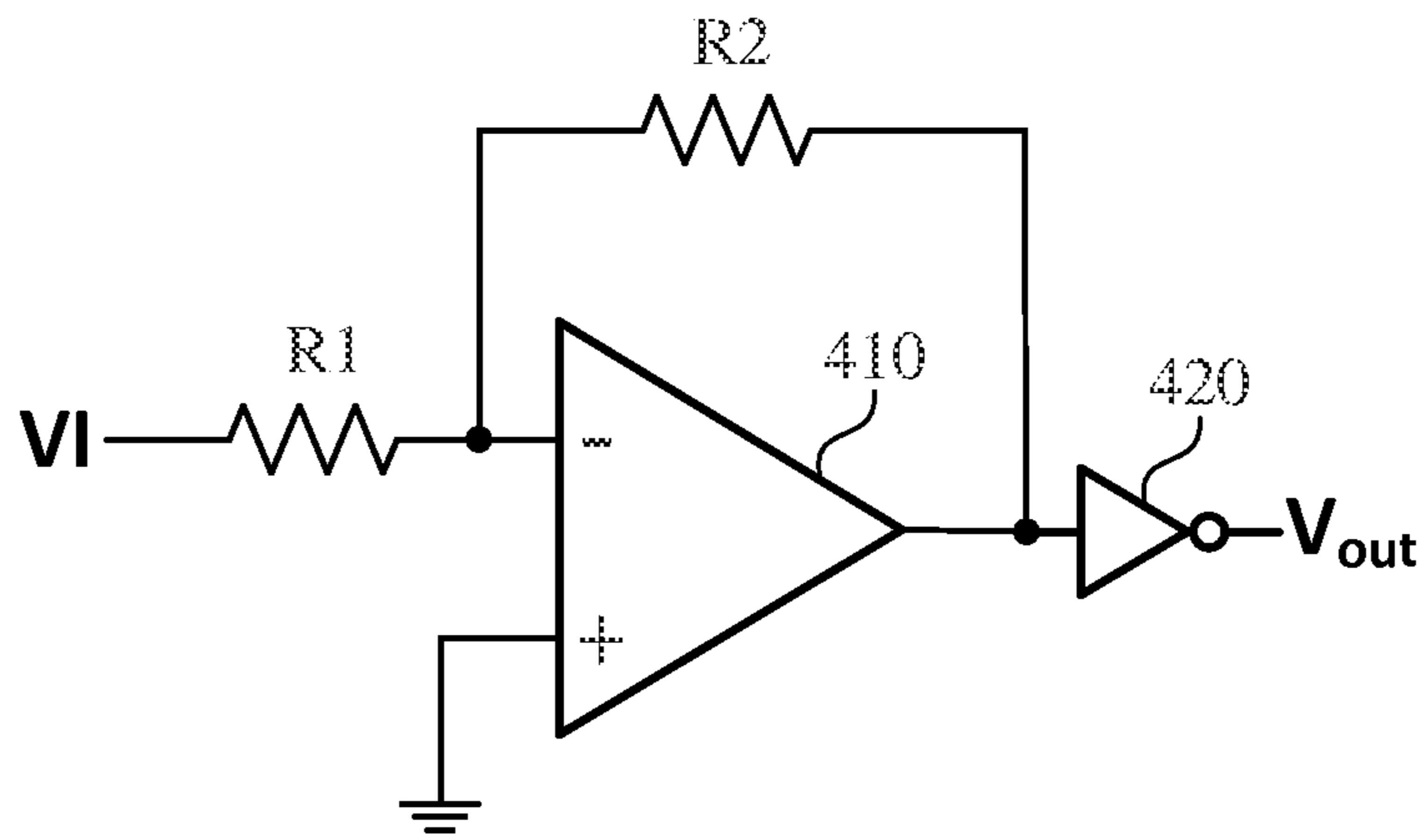


Fig. 4

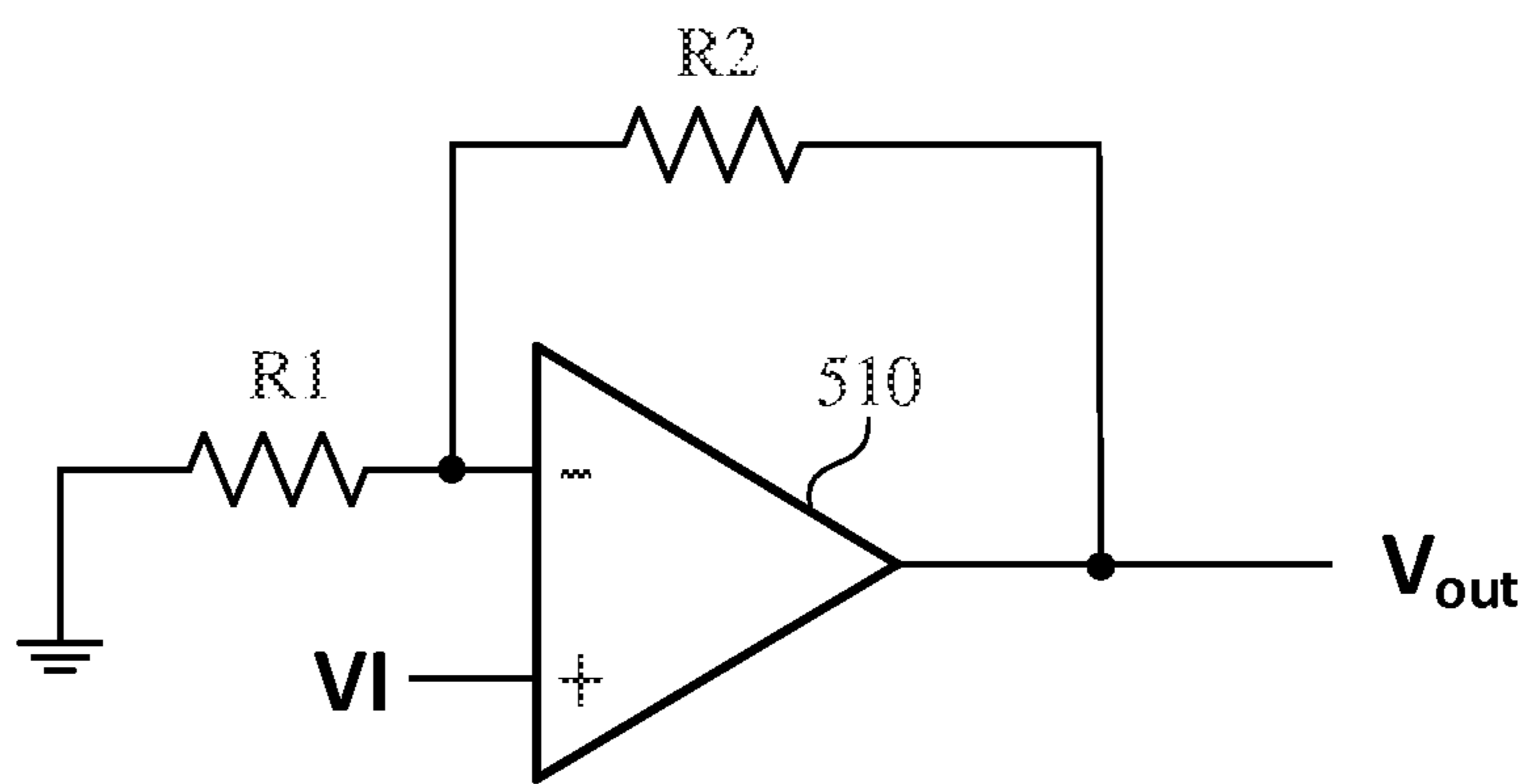


Fig. 5

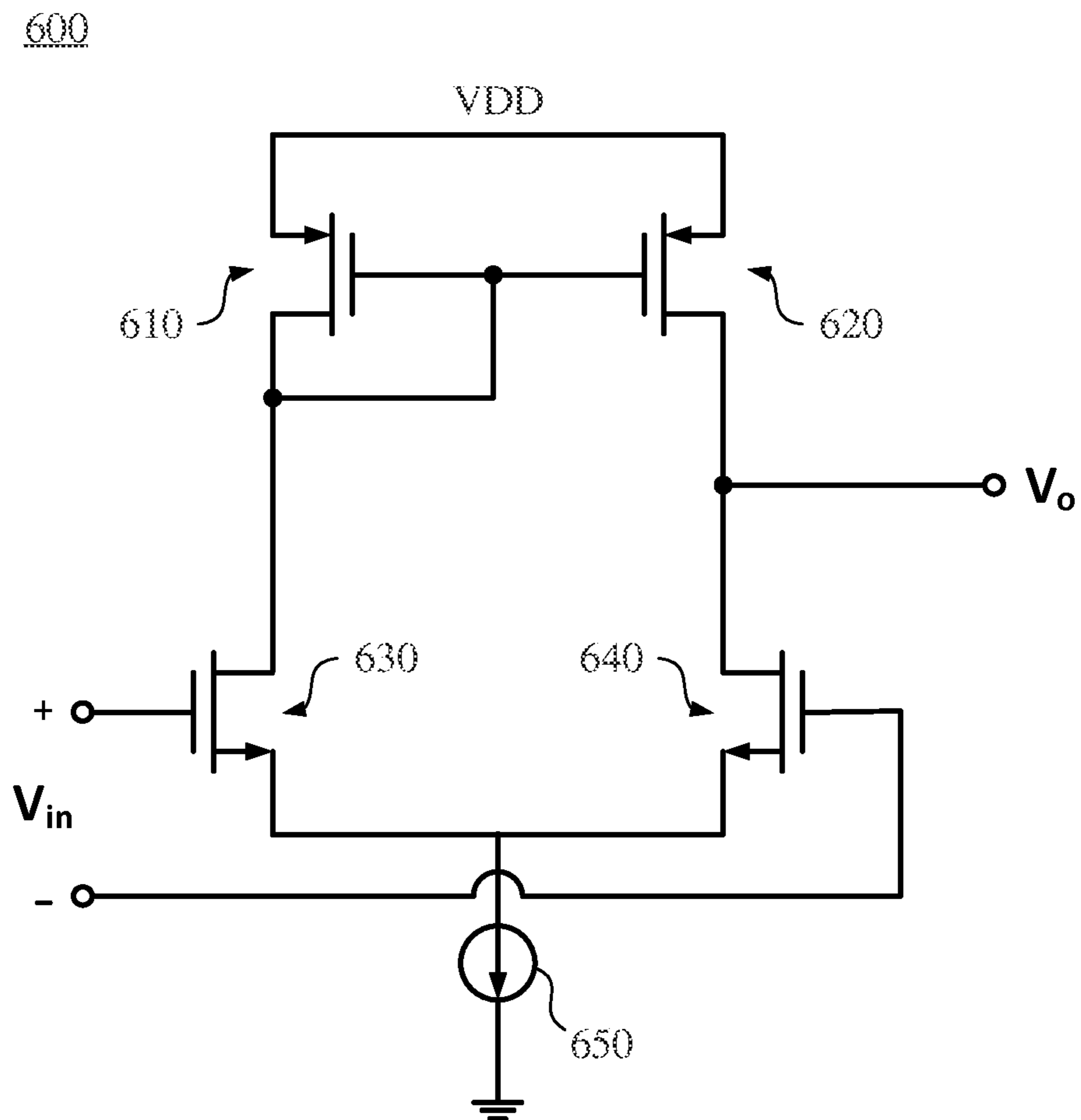


Fig. 6

700

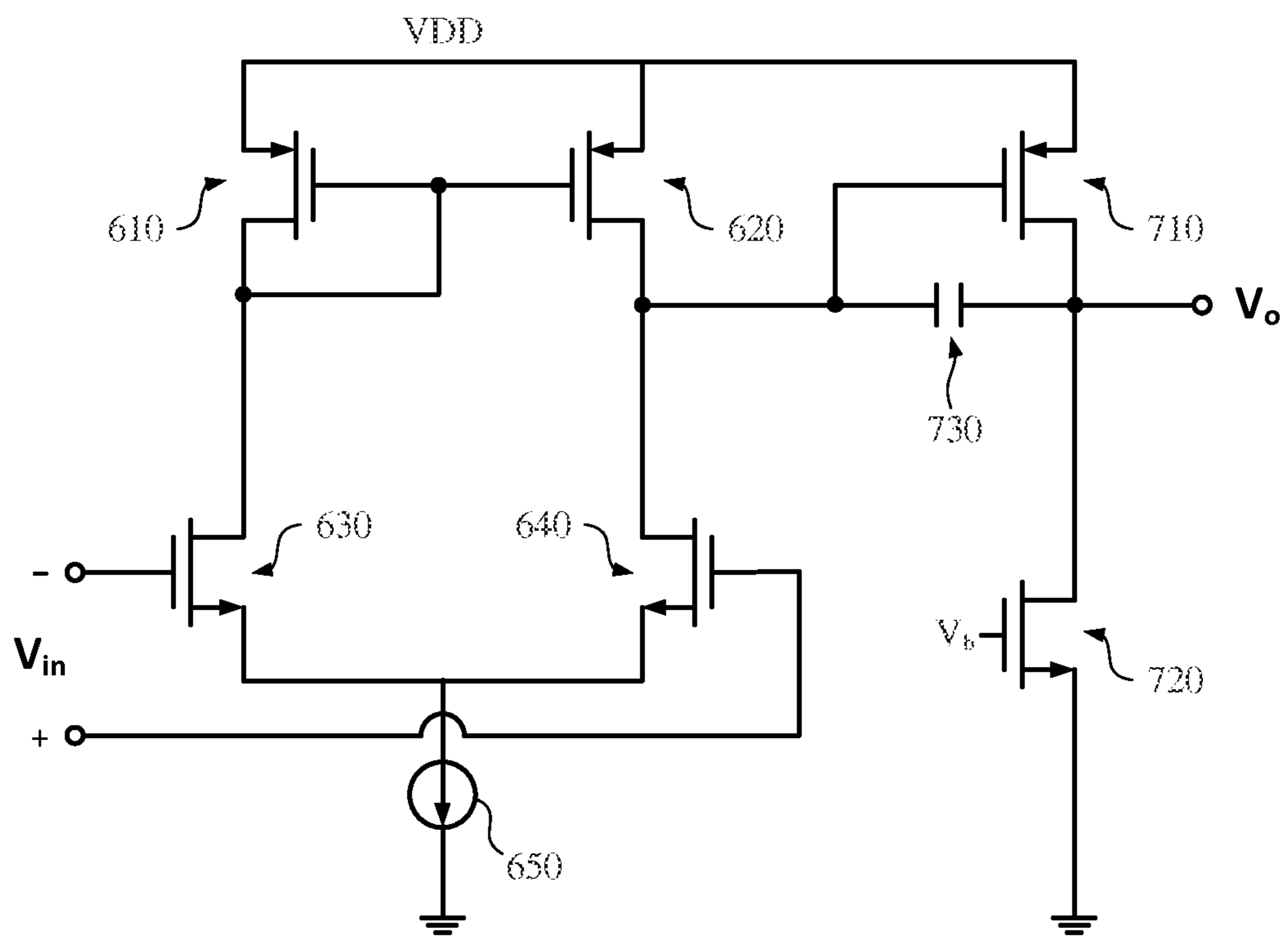


Fig. 7

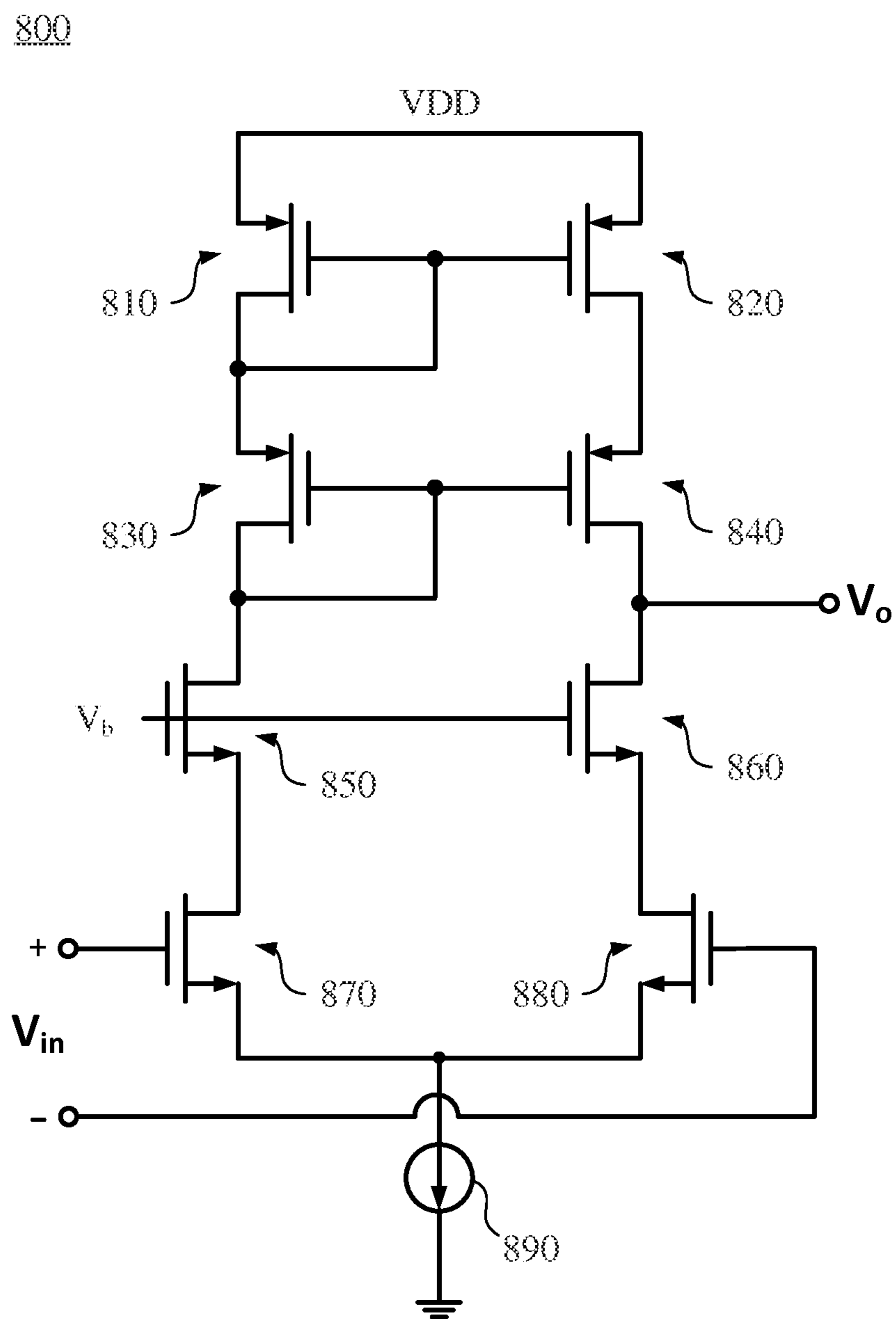


Fig. 8

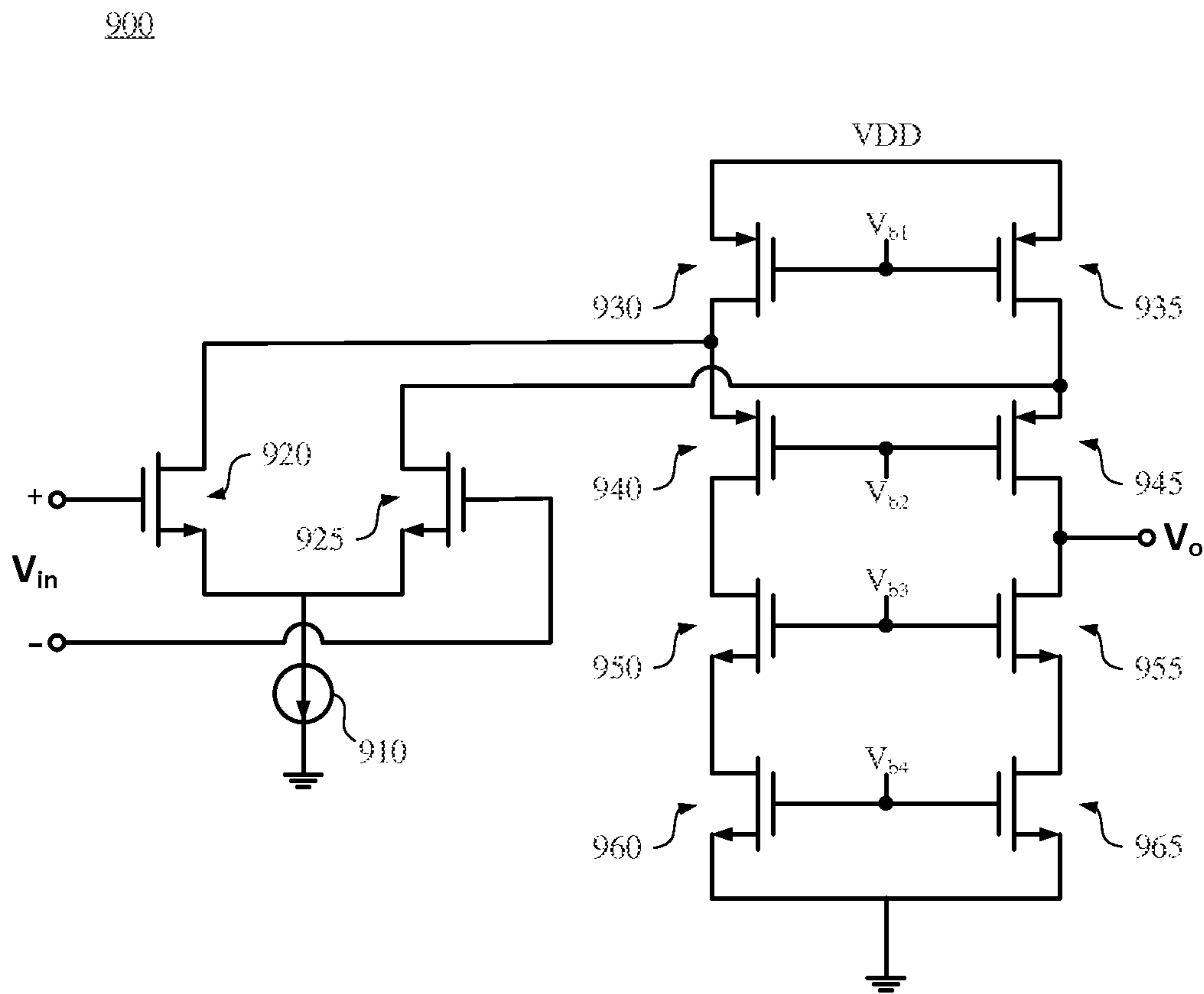


Fig. 9

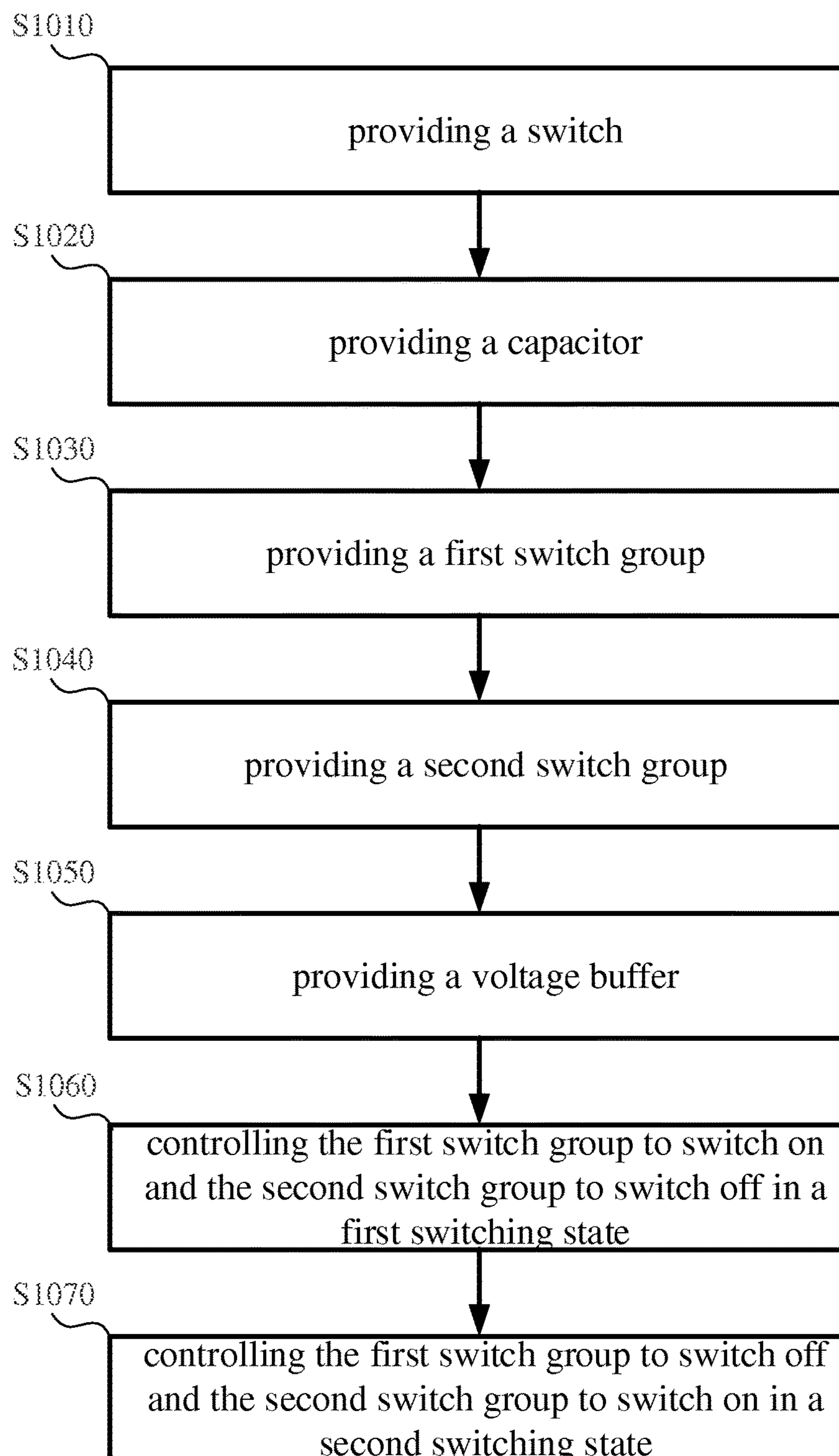


Fig. 10

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SAMPLING CIRCUIT AND SAMPLING METHOD

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a sampling circuit and the associated sampling method, especially to a sampling circuit and the associated sampling method that improves a sampling accuracy and reduces a slew time of a sampling signal.

2. Description of Related Art

FIG. 1 illustrate a circuit of a conventional bootstrapped switch, which is a common switching and sampling circuit. A reference "Input switch configuration suitable for rail-to-rail operation of switched opamp circuits" from IEE Electronics Letters (1999 January, pp. 8-9) has conducted a research on this circuit. The bootstrapped switch **100** includes switches **110**, **120**, **130**, **140** and **150**, an NMOS **160** and a capacitor **170**. An input, a node receiving the input voltage **VI**, and an output, a node outputting the output voltage **VO**, of the bootstrapped switch **100** are respectively coupled to a source and a drain of the NMOS **160**. A gate of the NMOS **160** is coupled to a voltage source **V3** through the switch **150** as well as coupled to the capacitor **170** and one terminal of the switch **110** through the switch **140**. The other terminal of the switch **110** is coupled to a voltage source **V1**. The other terminal of the capacitor **170** is coupled to a voltage source **V2** through the switch **120** as well as coupled to the source of the NMOS **160** and the input of the bootstrapped switch **100** through the switch **130**. The voltage source **V1** is of a high voltage level **VDD** while the voltage sources **V2** and **V3** are coupled to the ground. Basically, the operation of the bootstrapped switch **100** can be divided into two phases. In the first phase when the switch **110**, the switch **120** and the switch **150** switch on while the switch **130** and the switch **140** switch off, the capacitor **170** is gradually charged to **VDD** and the NMOS **160** is off because the gate thereof is coupled to the ground. In the second phase when the switch **110**, the switch **120** and the switch **150** switch off while the switch **130** and the switch **140** switch on, a gate voltage of the NMOS **160** is equal to the input voltage **VI** plus a voltage drop across the capacitor **170**. A formula of an on resistance R_{on} of a MOM-ET can be expressed as:

$$R_{on} = \frac{1}{(V_{GS} - V_{th})\mu_n C_{OX} \frac{W}{L}} \quad (1)$$

Thus, the on resistance R_{on} of the NMOS **160** in the second phase can be expressed as:

$$R_{on} = \frac{1}{(VDD + VI - VI - V_{th})\mu_n C_{OX} \frac{W}{L}} = \frac{1}{(VDD - V_{th})\mu_n C_{OX} \frac{W}{L}} \quad (2)$$

Notice that the on resistance R_{on} does not vary with the input voltage **VI**, and therefore a sampling linearity of the bootstrapped switch **100** can be improved.

The on resistance of the NMOS **160** is independent of the input voltage **VI** because the conventional bootstrapped switch **100** makes the gate voltage of the NMOS **160** in an on state related to the input voltage **VI** by having the capacitor **170** coupled between the gate and the source of the

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NMOS **160** and pre-charged to **VDD** before the NMOS **160** is turned on by the gate voltage **VDD**. Unfortunately, the capacitor **170** also increases a capacitive load of the bootstrapped switch **100**. It is even worse that when multiple bootstrapped switches **100** are connected in parallel in a multi-bit application circuit, a front-stage circuit thereof encounters even greater capacitive load, which influences stability of an output voltage of the front-stage (i.e., the input voltage **VI** of the bootstrapped switch **100**), resulting in, for example, a degraded phase margin or a reduced bandwidth, which in turn influences a sampling accuracy of the bootstrapped switch **100**. Moreover, the increased capacitive load also causes a slew time required by the sampling signal of the bootstrapped switch **100** to increase, degrading the sampling linearity of the bootstrapped switch **100**.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In view of the problems of the prior art, an object of the present invention is to provide a sampling circuit and a sampling method that improve the sampling accuracy and the sampling linearity, so as to make an improvement to the prior art.

The present invention discloses a sampling circuit for sampling an input voltage and generating an output voltage, comprising: a switch, a capacitor, a first switch group, a second switch group, and a voltage buffer. The switch has a control terminal, and switches off in a first switching state and switches on to make the output voltage equal to the input voltage in a second switching state. The capacitor is coupled to the switch. The first switch group is coupled to the capacitor. The second switch group is coupled to the capacitor. The voltage buffer, which is coupled to the switch, the capacitor, the first switch group and the second switch group, has large input impedance. An input of the voltage buffer receives the input voltage and an output of the voltage buffer provides a voltage which is equal or close to the input voltage. In the first switching state when the first switch group switches on and the second switch group switches off, the capacitor is charged to generate a voltage difference across the two terminals thereof, and in the second switching state when the first switch group switches off and the second switch group switches on, the input voltage is coupled to the control terminal of the switch through the voltage buffer and the capacitor so that a voltage at the control terminal is substantially equal or close to the input voltage plus the voltage difference across the capacitor.

The present invention also discloses a sampling method for sampling an input voltage and generating an output voltage. The method comprises the following steps: providing a switch, which has a control terminal and makes the output voltage equal to the input voltage in a switching on state; providing a capacitor, which is coupled to the switch; providing a first switch group, which is coupled to the capacitor; providing a second switch group, which is coupled to the capacitor; providing a voltage buffer, which is coupled to the switch, the capacitor, the first switch group and the second switch group, and has large input impedance and has an input receiving the input voltage and an output providing a voltage equal or close to the input voltage; controlling the first switch group to switch on and the second switch group to switch off in a first switching state in order that the capacitor is charged to generate a voltage difference across the two terminals thereof; controlling the first switch group to switch off and the second switch group to switch on in a second switching state in order that the input voltage is coupled to the control terminal of the switch through the

voltage buffer and the capacitor so a voltage at the control terminal is substantially equal or close to the input voltage plus the voltage difference across the capacitor.

The present invention further discloses a sampling circuit for sampling an input voltage and generating an output voltage, comprising a first switch, a capacitor, a second switch, a third switch, a fourth switch, a fifth switch, a voltage buffer and a sixth switch. The first switch has a control terminal and makes the output voltage equal to the input voltage in a switching on state. The capacitor has a first terminal and a second terminal. The second switch is coupled to the first terminal of the capacitor and a first reference voltage level. The third switch is coupled to the second terminal of the capacitor and a second reference voltage level. The fourth switch is coupled to the first terminal of the capacitor and the control terminal. The fifth switch is coupled to the control terminal and the second reference voltage level. The voltage buffer has large input impedance, and has an input receiving the input voltage, an output providing a voltage equal or close to the input voltage. The sixth switch is coupled to the second terminal of the capacitor and the output of the voltage buffer.

The sampling circuit and the sampling method of this invention encounter less capacitive load at an input of the sampling circuit as compared to the prior art; hence, the sampling circuit and the sampling method of this invention can reduce the slew time of the sampling signal to improve the sampling accuracy and the sampling linearity.

These and other objectives of the present invention no doubt becomes obvious to those of ordinary skill in the art after reading the following detailed description of the preferred embodiments that are illustrated in the various figures and drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 illustrates a circuit of a conventional bootstrapped switch.

FIG. 2 illustrates a sampling circuit according to an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 3 illustrates a circuit of the voltage buffer 280 according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 4 illustrates a circuit of the voltage buffer 280 according to another embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 5 illustrates a circuit of the voltage buffer 280 according to another embodiment of the present invention.

FIGS. 6~9 illustrate circuits of an operational amplifier.

FIG. 10 illustrates a flowchart of a sampling method according to an embodiment of this invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS

The following description is written by referring to terms of this technical field. If any term is defined in this specification, such term should be explained accordingly. In addition, the connection between objects or events in the below-described embodiments can be direct or indirect provided that these embodiments are practicable under such connection. Said "indirect" means that an intermediate object or a physical space exists between the objects, or an intermediate event or a time interval exists between the events.

FIG. 2 illustrates a sampling circuit according to an embodiment of the present invention. A sampling circuit 200 includes switches 210, 220, 230, 240 and 250, an NMOS 260, a capacitor 270 and a voltage buffer 280. The NMOS

260 is used as a switch. In the IC (integrated circuit) design, a switch can be implemented by a PMOS as well with correspondingly adjusted polarities and bias, the operation principles of which can be understood by people having ordinary skill in the art and are therefore omitted for brevity. An input, a node receiving an input voltage V_I , and an output, a node outputting an output voltage V_O , of the sampling circuit 200 are respectively coupled to a source and a drain of the NMOS 260. A gate of the NMOS 260 is coupled to a voltage source V_3 through the switch 250 as well as coupled to one terminal of the capacitor 270 and one terminal of the switch 210 through the switch 240. The other terminal of the switch 210 is coupled to the voltage source V_1 . The other terminal of the capacitor 270 is coupled to a voltage source V_2 through the switch 220 as well as coupled to an output of the voltage buffer 280 through the switch 230. An input of the voltage buffer 280 is coupled to the source of the NMOS 260, namely, the input of the sampling circuit 200. The voltage source V_1 is of a high voltage level V_{DD} whereas the voltage sources V_2 and V_3 are coupled to the ground. The switches 210, 220, 230, 240 and 250 can be implemented by a single NMOS, PMOS or CMOS (complementary MOM-ET), or a combination thereof. A purpose of using the voltage buffer 280 is to prevent the input of the sampling circuit 200 (i.e., an output of a front-stage circuit) from being affected by the capacitive load, resulting from the capacitor 270, as much as possible; therefore the voltage buffer 280 is to provide extremely large input impedance. Further, an output voltage of the voltage buffer 280 varies with the input voltage thereof, namely, the input voltage V_I of the sampling circuit 200, making a gate voltage of the NMOS 260 vary with the input voltage V_I ; as a result, the on resistance of the NMOS 260 does not vary with the input voltage V_I , which ensures good sampling linearity of the sampling circuit 200.

Basically, the operations of the sampling circuit 200 can be divided into 2 phases. In the first phase when the switches 210, 220 and 250, which can be regarded as a switch group, switch on whereas the switches 230 and 240, which can be regarded as another switch group, switch off, the capacitor 270 is gradually charged to V_{DD} and the NMOS 260 is off because its gate is coupled to the ground. In the second phase when the switches 210, 220, and 250 switch off whereas the switches 230 and 240 switch on, the gate voltage of the NMOS 260 is equal to the output voltage of the voltage buffer 280 plus the voltage drop across the capacitor 270, which is ideally equal to V_{DD} . Because the output voltage of the voltage buffer 280 varies with its input voltage, namely the input voltage V_I of the sampling circuit 200, the on resistance of the NMOS 260 does not vary with the input voltage V_I . Therefore, the sampling circuit 200 of this invention retains good sampling linearity in comparison with the bootstrapped switch 100.

The voltage buffer 280 can be implemented by an operational amplifier with unity gain, namely, a unity gain buffer, whose circuit is illustrated in FIG. 3. A non-inverting input of the operational amplifier 310 is coupled to receive the input voltage V_I whereas an inverting input of the operational amplifier 310 is coupled to the output thereof. An output voltage V_{out} of the operational amplifier 310 is coupled to the capacitor 270 through the switch 230. In addition to the circuit shown in FIG. 3, the voltage buffer 280 of this invention can also be implemented by an operational amplifier in combination with resistors. As illustrated in FIG. 4, the output of the operational amplifier 410 is coupled to the inverting input through a resistor R_2 and the non-inverting input is coupled to the ground. The input

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voltage VI is input to the inverting input of the operational amplifier 410 through a resistor R1. The voltage at the output of the operational amplifier 410 is -VI when the resistor R1 is equal to the resistor R2. An output voltage Vout is equal to the input voltage VI as the output of the operational amplifier 410 is coupled to an inverter 420. In addition, the voltage buffer 280 can also be implemented by the circuit illustrated in FIG. 5. The output of the operational amplifier 510 is coupled to the inverting input through a resistor R2, and the inverting input is further coupled to the ground through a resistor R1. The non-inverting input of the 510 is to receive the input voltage VI. A ratio of the output voltage Vout to the input voltage VI is (R1+R2)/R1. If the resistance of the resistor R1 is much greater than that of the resistor R2, such as the ratio of the resistance of the resistor R1 to that of the resistor R2 being greater than 100, the output voltage Vout is close to the input voltage VI. The implementation of the voltage buffer 280 is not limited to FIGS. 3~5 and has a variety of modifications with different ways of connections between the operational amplifier and the resistor(s). The reason an operational amplifier is used in the voltage buffer 280 is because an ideal operational amplifier possesses extremely large input impedance, which virtually isolating the output of a front-stage circuit and the capacitor 270. As a result, the front-stage circuit encounters little capacitive load.

The above-mentioned operational amplifiers 310, 410 and 510 can be implemented by the circuits illustrated in FIGS. 6~9. The operational amplifier 600 shown in FIG. 6 includes 2 PMOSs 610 and 620 and 2 NMOSs 630 and 640. The gates of the PMOS 610 and the PMOS 620 are coupled to each other and further coupled to a drain of the PMOS 610. The sources of the PMOS 610 and the PMOS 620 are both coupled to VDD. The drains of the PMOS 610 and the PMOS 620 are coupled to the drains of the NMOS 630 and the NMOS 640, respectively. The sources of the NMOS 630 and the NMOS 640 are both coupled to a current source 650. The gates of the NMOS 630 and the NMOS 640 serve as the inverting input and the non-inverting input of the operational amplifier, respectively. The output Vo of the operational amplifier is coupled to the drains of the PMOS 620 and the NMOS 640. The operational amplifier 700 in FIG. 7 includes the aforementioned PMOS 610, PMOS 620, NMOS 630, NMOS 640 and current source 650 as well as a PMOS 710 and an NMOS 720, whose drains are coupled to each other. A gate of the PMOS 710 is coupled to the drain of the PMOS 620. The drain of the PMOS 710 serves as the output Vo and is further coupled to the drain of the PMOS 620 through a capacitor 730. A gate of the NMOS 720 is biased by a voltage Vb and a source of the NMOS 720 is coupled to the ground. In contrast to the circuit of FIG. 6, the circuit of FIG. 7 includes a post-stage section, which is made up of the PMOS 710, the NMOS 720 and the capacitor 730, so the PMOS 710 is typically referred to as a two-stage operational amplifier, whereas the circuit of FIG. 6 is referred to as a single-stage operational amplifier.

The circuit shown in FIG. 8 includes 4 groups of cascode transistors. The transistor group directly coupled to VDD includes a PMOS 810 and a PMOS 820. The sources of the PMOS 810 and the PMOS 820 are coupled to VDD, their gates are coupled to each other and further coupled to a drain of the PMOS 810, and their drains are coupled to a transistor group made up of the PMOS 830 and the PMOS 840. The sources of the PMOS 830 and the PMOS 840 are respectively coupled to the drains of the PMOS 810 and the PMOS 820, their gates are coupled to each other and further coupled to the drain of the PMOS 830, and their drains are

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coupled to a transistor group made up of the NMOS 850 and the NMOS 860. The drains of the NMOS 850 and the NMOS 860 are respectively coupled to the drains of the PMOS 830 and the PMOS 840, their gates are biased by the voltage Vb, and their sources are coupled to a transistor group made up of the NMOS 870 and the NMOS 880. The drains of the NMOS 870 and the NMOS 880 are respectively coupled to the sources of the NMOS 850 and the NMOS 860, their gates serve as the inputs of the operational amplifier, and their sources are coupled to a current source 890, which is coupled to the ground. The output of the operational amplifier is at the drains of the PMOS 840 and the NMOS 860. The operational amplifier 800 is typically referred to as a telescopic cascode operational amplifier. FIG. 9 illustrates another embodiment of the operational amplifiers 310, 410 and 510. The circuit of FIG. 9 is referred to as a folded cascode operational amplifier. The right half of the operational amplifier 900 includes 4 stacked transistor groups. The 4 transistor groups, from top to bottom, includes a PMOS 930 and a PMOS 935, a PMOS 940 and a PMOS 945, a NMOS 950 and a NMOS 955, as well as a NMOS 960 and a NMOS 965, respectively. The gates of the 4 transistor groups are respectively biased by voltages Vb1, Vb2, Vb3, and Vm. The left half of the operational amplifier 900 includes another transistor group made up of an NMOS 920 and an NMOS 925. The drains of the NMOS 920 and the NMOS 925 are respectively coupled to the drain of the PMOS 930 and the drain of the PMOS 935, their sources are both coupled to a current source 910, and their gates serve as the inputs of the operational amplifier 900.

The PMOSs in the operational amplifiers 600, 700, 800 and 900 can be substituted by NMOSs and vice versa, and the same function can be obtained with correspondingly adjusted polarities and biases. Such modifications are well known to people having ordinary skill in the art and therefore are omitted for brevity.

FIG. 10 illustrates a flowchart of a sampling method according to an embodiment of this invention. In addition to the sampling circuit 200, this invention also discloses a corresponding sampling method that improves the sampling accuracy and the sampling linearity and reduces the capacitive load encountered by a front-stage circuit. As shown in FIG. 10, an embodiment of the sampling method includes the following steps:

- S1010: providing a switch. For example the switch can be the NMOS 260 in FIG. 2, with its gate serving as a control terminal. When the switch is on, the output voltage VO is equal to the input voltage VI;
- S1020: providing a capacitor. For example, the capacitor can be the capacitor 270 in FIG. 2;
- S1030: providing a first switch group. For example the first switch group includes the switches 210, 220 and 250 in FIG. 2;
- S1040: providing a second switch group. For example the second switch group includes the switches 230 and 240 in FIG. 2;
- S1050: providing a voltage buffer. The voltage buffer is coupled to the switch, the capacitor, the first switch group and the second switch group. The voltage buffer has large input impedance, and its input is coupled to receive the input voltage VI and its output provides a voltage that is equal or close to the input voltage VI. For example, the voltage buffer can be one of the circuits illustrated in FIGS. 3~5;
- S1060: controlling the first switch group to switch on and the second switch group to switch off in a first switching state. In the first switching state, the two terminals of the

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capacitor are respectively coupled to a first voltage source and a second voltage source, and the capacitor is being charged in the first switching state until a voltage drop across its two terminals is equal to a voltage difference between the first voltage source and the second voltage source. The control terminal of the switch is coupled to the second voltage source to make the switch be switched off so the output voltage VO is not equal to the input voltage VI; and

S1070: controlling the first switch group to switch off and the second switch group to switch on in a second switching state. In the second switching state, the input voltage VI is coupled to the control terminal of the switch through the voltage buffer and the capacitor; as a result, a voltage at the control terminal is substantially equal or close to the input voltage VI plus the voltage drop across the capacitor. According to the equation (2), the on resistance of the switch is not influenced by the input voltage VI, and therefore a better sampling linearity can be obtained during sampling.

Since people of ordinary skill in the art can appreciate the implementation detail and the modification thereto of the present method invention of FIG. 10 through the disclosure of the device invention of FIGS. 2~9, repeated and redundant description is thus omitted. Please note that there is no step sequence limitation for the method inventions as long as the execution of each step is applicable. Furthermore, the shape, size, and ratio of any element and the step sequence of any flow chart in the disclosed figures are just exemplary for understanding, not for limiting the scope of this invention.

The aforementioned descriptions represent merely the preferred embodiments of the present invention, without any intention to limit the scope of the present invention thereto. Various equivalent changes, alterations, or modifications based on the claims of the present invention are all consequently viewed as being embraced by the scope of the present invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A sampling circuit for sampling an input voltage and generating an output voltage, comprising:

a switch, switching off in a first switching state and switching on to make the output voltage equal to the input voltage in a second switching state, wherein the switch has a control terminal;

a capacitor, coupled to the switch;

a first switch group, coupled to the capacitor;

a second switch group, coupled to the capacitor;

an operational amplifier, having an inverting input, a non-inverting input and an output, wherein the non-inverting input is coupled to the ground;

a first resistor having one terminal coupled to the inverting input and another terminal receiving the input voltage;

a second resistor having one terminal coupled to the inverting input and another terminal coupled to the output of the operational amplifier; and

an inverter having an input coupled to the output of the operational amplifier and an output coupled to the capacitor;

wherein, the resistance of the first resistor is equal or close to the resistance of the second resistor so that a voltage at the output of the inverter is substantially equal or close to the input voltage, and in the first switching state when the first switch group switches on and the second switch group switches off, the capacitor is charged to generate a voltage difference across the two

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terminals thereof, and in the second switching state when the first switch group switches off and the second switch group switches on, the output of the inverter is directly connected to the capacitor and the input voltage is coupled to the control terminal of the switch through the operational amplifier, the first resistor, the second resistor, the inverter, and the capacitor so that a voltage at the control terminal is substantially equal or close to the input voltage plus the voltage difference across the capacitor.

2. The sampling circuit of claim 1, wherein the switch is an NMOS having a source receiving the input voltage, a drain providing the output voltage, and a gate being the control terminal.

3. The sampling circuit of claim 2, wherein the first switch group comprises:

a first switch, coupled to a first terminal of the capacitor and a first reference voltage level;

a second switch, coupled to a second terminal of the capacitor and a second reference voltage level; and

a third switch, coupled to the gate of the NMOS and the second reference voltage level; and

the second switch group comprises:

a fourth switch, coupled to the second terminal of the capacitor and the inverter; and

a fifth switch, coupled to the gate of the NMOS and the first terminal of the capacitor.

4. A sampling method for sampling an input voltage and generating an output voltage, the method comprising:

providing a switch, which has a control terminal and makes the output voltage equal to the input voltage in a switching on state;

providing a capacitor, which is coupled to the switch;

providing a first switch group, which is coupled to the capacitor;

providing a second switch group, which is coupled to the capacitor;

providing an operational amplifier having an inverting input, a non-inverting input and an output, wherein the non-inverting input is coupled to the ground;

providing a first resistor having one terminal coupled to the inverting input and another terminal receiving the input voltage;

providing a second resistor having one terminal coupled to the inverting input and another terminal coupled to the output of the operational amplifier;

providing an inverter having an input coupled to the output of the operational amplifier and an output coupled to the capacitor;

controlling the first switch group to switch on and the second switch group to switch off in a first switching state in order that the capacitor is charged to generate a voltage difference across the two terminals thereof; and

controlling the first switch group to switch off and the second switch group to switch on in a second switching state in order that the output of the inverter is directly connected to the capacitor and the input voltage is coupled to the control terminal of the switch through the operational amplifier, the first resistor, the second resistor, the inverter, and the capacitor so a voltage at the control terminal is substantially equal or close to the input voltage plus the voltage difference across the capacitor;

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wherein, the resistance of the first resistor is equal or close to the resistance of the second resistor so that a voltage at the output of the inverter is substantially equal or close to the input voltage.

5 **5.** A sampling circuit for sampling an input voltage and generating an output voltage, comprising:

a first switch, having a control terminal and making the output voltage equal to the input voltage in a switching on state;

a capacitor, having a first terminal and a second terminal;

a second switch, coupled to the first terminal of the capacitor and a first reference voltage level;

a third switch, coupled to the second terminal of the capacitor and a second reference voltage level;

a fourth switch, coupled to the first terminal of the capacitor and the control terminal;

a fifth switch, coupled to the control terminal and the second reference voltage level;

an operational amplifier, having an inverting input, a non-inverting input and an output, wherein the non-inverting input is coupled to the ground;

a first resistor having one terminal coupled to the inverting input and another terminal receiving the input voltage;

a second resistor having one terminal coupled to the inverting input and another terminal coupled to the output of the operational amplifier;

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an inverter having an input coupled to the output of the operational amplifier and an output coupled to the capacitor; and

a sixth switch, coupled to the second terminal of the capacitor and the output of the inverter;

wherein, in a first switching state when the first switch, the fourth switch and the sixth switch are off, and the second switch, the third switch and the fifth switch are on, the capacitor is being charged; in a second switching state when the first switch, the fourth switch and the sixth switch are on, and the second switch, the third switch and the fifth switch are off, the output of the inverter is directly connected to the capacitor and the input voltage is coupled to the control terminal of the first switch through the operational amplifier, the first resistor, the second resistor, the inverter, and the capacitor so a voltage at the control terminal is substantially equal to the input voltage plus a voltage difference across the two terminals of the capacitor, and the resistance of the first resistor is equal or close to the resistance of the second resistor so that a voltage at the output of the inverter is substantially equal or close to the input voltage.

6. The sampling circuit of claim **5**, wherein the switch is an NMOS having a source receiving the input voltage, a drain providing the output voltage, and a gate being the control terminal.

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